



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

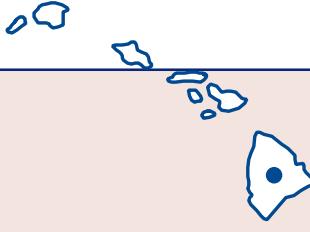
## Hawaii County, HI

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

Hawaii County was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Hawaii County (population 148,077), one of four counties in the state, covers the entire island of Hawaii. The county has higher poverty and unemployment rates than the rest of the state and country. Over the past 20 to 30 years, the county's economy has changed from one based on sugar, the military, and tourism to one based almost entirely on tourism. A more diversified agricultural sector also is beginning to emerge. Economic progress has been hindered by the lack of suitable industrial sites, especially because of the presence of brownfields in the Hilo Harbor area, abandoned dumps, plantation landfills, and mill facilities. The cruise ship terminals in the harbor area are surrounded by vacant and poorly maintained former industrial warehouses. Many of the



### Assessment Grant

New  
2005

**\$200,000 for hazardous substances**

EPA has selected Hawaii County to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to develop an inventory of brownfields in the county, perform Phase I and II assessments of three to five sites, and conduct community outreach activities. The county will focus on old warehouse sites in downtown Hilo, abandoned dumps and plantation landfills, and other sugarcane plantation lands and facilities.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team  
415-972-3188

[http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/  
index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html)

Grant Recipient: Hawaii County, HI  
808-961-8083

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

brownfields are in regions where chemicals were deposited, threatening redevelopment. Potentially contaminated old sugarcane mills occupy a significant percentage of industrially zoned land. The site assessments will support the creation of a green belt between the cruise ship terminals and the harbor-front commercial area; enable safe residential or agricultural reuse in areas that contain dumps and landfills; and facilitate light industrial reuse of plantation lands, which are needed to support the growth of the tourism and agriculture.